

**RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 20, 2018**

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees took place on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at the River Forest Civic Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll called

Present: Supervisor Carla Sloan, Trustees Karen Taubman and Holly Economos, Helene Connolly and Mark Kelty. Also present: Clerk Abby Schmelling, Senior Outreach Coordinator Cathaleen Roach, and RFCCA Administrator Dick Chappell. Absent was Mental Health/GA Administrator Avis Rudner.

A motion to approve the minutes as corrected of the January 16, 2018 was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Kelty. The motion passed.

Public Participation

Recognition was given to Kristin Carlson Vogen, who has left her position as Executive Director of the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation to become Senior Director of Development and Donor Services for the Chicago Community Trust. Kristin was presented with a plaque, River Forest Township Resolution 2018-01 Commending River Forest Resident Kristin Carlson Vogen, which was adopted by the River Forest Township Board of Trustees and read by Supervisor Sloan.

River Forest Resident Katie Brennan brought questions to the meeting about the possibility and scope of a pickleball program at the River Forest Community Center (RFCC) that might be offered to all residents through the Township or another River Forest organization or government body such as the Park District. A previous meeting that Dick had with Katie and Trustee Economos determined that there was space and time availability at the RFCC. Supervisor Sloan explained that the Township would be willing and able to support a pickleball program especially for seniors aged 60+, as that aligned with the Township's mission. She noted that the Township had recently set up a special "senior pickleball" time at an indoor location in Oak Park. Carla explained that the Township's mission, through taxpayer dollars, is to fund human services through programs for youth, seniors, mental health, those in financial need, and separately the assessor's office. A discussion around how pickleball might fit within this mission followed.

Reports

Assessor

Pamela Kende

- Answered phone calls regarding what the first installment tax bill will be, which is 55% of last year's tax bill;
- Helped taxpayers pay their tax bills online;
- Fielded questions regarding Cook County Appeal period which ends March 6. Fielded calls and created packets for residents;
- Fielded questions regarding what the Board of Review reduction means and how it will affect their

tax bill and when it takes effect (second installment of 2017);

- Submitted annual budget;
- Sent out press releases regarding exemptions;
- Attended Cook County Township Assessors Association meeting;
- Working with the Cook County Treasurer, mailed notices to all the delinquent tax properties in River Forest; tracked and reported *bad* addresses from the Cook County Treasurer's system.

Mental Health Committee (MHC)/General Assistance (GA)

Supervisor Carla Sloan

- We have one GA client.
- As part of the implementation of the Health Needs Assessment, an action step included a meeting with partner Concordia University, with both Dr. Lydia Manning from the Gerontology Department and Brenda Ross from the Community Counseling Center, where graduate students do their practicum work. Among the items discussed was a longevity and wellness support group for seniors, to be held at Concordia. They also discussed ideas for training sessions in gerontology for mental health providers.
- The Youth and Family Health Consortium held their annual breakfast, co-sponsored by the Township, Oak Park Community Mental Health Board and Riveredge Hospital. Over forty people were in attendance; each gave a two minute presentation on their latest services.
- Carla attended the MHC meeting. Members are doing their site visits relating to the grant applications the MHC has received. MHC will make its funding recommendations in March.
- Avis attended the Opioid Task Force meeting as a representative of the Township.
- Carla attended the District #90 special education parent forum which included a panel discussion and resource fair.
- Sibshops has completed three of our seven sessions, with only one spot open. The program received a wonderful endorsement from a parent at the special ed forum.
- The Text a Tip program for suicide prevention was presented to school administrators from D90, D97 and D200.

Youth Services Committee (YSC)

Carla Sloan

- Karen Taubman gave an update on the February 7 YSC meeting, where funding applications were reviewed.
- Carla attended the School Committee meeting for IMPACT. The focus was on safe prom activities; IMPACT and the high school plan to host a parent coffee and disseminate written information on the subject.

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Cathaleen Roach

- Cathaleen and Carla attended the Senior Legislative Breakfast on Monday February 5. The Township and Township Senior Services hosted more than 50 attendees at the RFCC, featuring stakeholders discussing senior issues and legislative initiatives. Carla reported that all five of our elected representatives or their assistants attended.
- February's Coffee Monday hosted a panel of representatives from Triton, Dominican and Concordia, presenting their lower-cost cultural and academic offerings for seniors in our community. The talk was well received, and the panel agreed to do the same program for Celebrating Seniors Week.
- On March 5 Coffee Monday, trustee Karen Taubman will present "Tools for a Less Cluttered Life".

- Celebrating Seniors All Year Long programming with the Library continues. The Radio Hour's WWII presentation had 65 attendees and was a huge success. This month we hosted Dining Out in Chicago historical presentation and will co-host a Children's Chamber Orchestra concert on Sunday at the Library.
- The Movement and Memory for Joyful Aging class starts this month at the RFCC. We received excellent publicity from an article and photo in the Pioneer Press on January 23.
- Cathaleen mentioned continued outreach efforts: She conducted a memoir Writing Workshop attended by seventeen people at Grace Lutheran. She will visit AARP's "Back to Work 50+" site for seniors looking for full or part-time work, at the Maywood American Job Center.
- We continue with outreach for local tax preparation assistance for eligible seniors.
- Efforts are continuing for the 2018 Celebrating Seniors Week, April 26-May3. The 60 over 60 honorees have been selected, pictures taken and interviews being done. Six free programs will be presented, mostly at the River Forest Community Center.

Supervisor's Comments

Carla Sloan.

- Due to low attendance, Connect With Tech will meet monthly rather than weekly. Starting in May, under the new *Gather, Discover, Engage* umbrella, Coffee Mondays will continue on the first Monday of each month, Connect with Tech will be on the 2nd Wednesday and Film Lovers Friday will start on the 3rd Friday. The new film event will be a brown bag lunch followed by a movie, focusing on different film genres.
- Conversation continued about a pickleball program for seniors.
- Carla attended the Cook County meet and greet hosted by Pete Silvestri for our District 9.
- Carla participated in interviews at the Village as part of their comprehensive plan process.
- Helene will be attending the collaboration subcommittee meeting tomorrow night. The collaboration committee conducted a survey which Carla will send out.
- Carla spoke about getting additional resources to help with the new website project.
- Carla upgraded the safe disposal and senior bus fliers.

Approval of Bills

- Trustee Economos made a motion to approve bills as of February 28, 2018 totalling \$79,887.35 from the Community Bank Operating Fund. It was seconded by Trustee Kelty. Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Taubman, Economos and Kelty and Connolly. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee Economos made a motion to approve General Assistance bills as of February 28, 2018 in the amount of \$1,194.56. It was seconded by Trustee Kelty. Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Taubman, Kelty, Connolly and Economos. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business -- None

New Business

Carla Sloan

- A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Kelty to change the regular meeting time from 7pm to 6pm. Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Taubman, Kelty, Connolly and Economos. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

- A motion was made by Trustee Economos and seconded by Trustee Connolly to approve the Holiday Food and Gift Basket grant request of \$1,500 from the Township for fiscal year 2019. Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Taubman, Kelty, Connolly and Economos. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Kelty to allow a maximum of \$2,000 of the remaining \$4,500 IMPACT funding from the Township to extend consultant services for the opioid pilot project. Discussion followed. Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Kelty, Taubman and Connolly. Nays: Trustee Economos. The motion passed.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, March 20 at 6:00 pm. Trustee Connolly made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Kelty seconded, the motion was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Abby Schmelling, Clerk